



WINN FELINE FOUNDATION

For the Health and Well-being of All Cats

2021 Winn Grant Proposal Announcement

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Winn Feline Foundation advances feline health by supporting research and education.

Winn Feline Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization that funds research into health issues affecting cats.

The deadline for receipt of applications is Monday, December 14, 2020 by 11:59pmET and awards will be announced by mid-May, 2021.

- The maximum grant amount is \$30,000, and awards will be determined in March, 2021. Multi-year proposals totaling more than \$30,000 will not be considered. However, continuation of studies funded in previous years will be considered and requests should follow the format as outlined below.
- Projects should have discrete and achievable goals within the \$30,000 limit. They must demonstrate their relevance or benefit to improving feline health, particularly regarding domestic cats.

• **Please Note:** In this grant cycle, Winn Feline Foundation has an immediate interest in projects that address issues in behavior and, in particular, diabetes mellitus. However, studies applicable to all cats and all aspects pertaining to feline health are encouraged.

We have dedicated research funds for feline infectious peritonitis (Bria Fund) and heart disease (Ricky Fund).

Current breed specific dedicated funds are also available for:

- Norwegian Forest Cat and Persian hypertrophic cardiomyopathy studies
- Birman heart disease studies
- Abyssinian-related health issues
- Amyloidosis in Siamese and Oriental Shorthair-related breeds.

Additional dedicated research funding for cats is available related to:

- Inflammatory disease or cancer of the liver, pancreas and intestinal tract (Speckles and Kitty Kollar Funds)
- Blood and immunologic disorders (Andorra Fund)
- Shelter Medicine
- Chronic kidney disease and related hypertension disorder

- Applicants may be veterinary researchers, faculty veterinarians, post-doctoral fellows, practicing veterinarians or veterinary students.
- **Special Note:** Please be advised of the availability of **two** New Feline Investigator Grant Awards described in the final section below.

FORMAT:

To apply for a Winn Feline Foundation grant, submit your electronic proposal as ONE complete Microsoft Word document (provided in order listed below) to grants@winnfelinefoundation.org to be received no later than Monday, December 14, 2020. Proposals submitted in separate pieces will not be reviewed. The Primary Investigator and Grant Administrator will receive a confirmation email once the document is received. **Winn Feline Foundation can provide assistance for grant writing by offering examples of successful grant proposals and/or advising on mentorship.**

Summary Guidelines (Every copy of the proposal must include the following information in order):

I. Cover Page (maximum one page):

You **MUST** use the cover page template located in the grants (process/application forms) section at www.winnfelinefoundation.org.

1. Includes the title of the proposed study.
2. Name, institution, email, and regular mailing address of all primary investigators and a list of co-investigators.
3. Agency/Institution, mailing address, institution's EIN Number (US applicants only), grant administrator name/email for the agency to which the grant would be payable.



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4. Amount requested.
5. Signature of the principal investigator and appropriate grant administrator.

II. Scientific Summary (maximum 250 words):

A scientific abstract suitable for veterinary journals that describes the purpose and background of the study.

III. Lay-language Abstract (maximum 250 words):

Also include an abstract in simple non-technical language for use in Winn Feline Foundation's press releases, newsletters and website geared towards the general public.

IV. Continuation Studies (maximum 3 pages):

If the proposal is a continuation of a prior Winn funded study, include a progress report of this earlier study.

V. Study Proposal (maximum 3 pages, not including references):

1. Background (including preliminary data) which clearly address study objectives and hypotheses.
2. Include precise reasons for experimental design, number of animals needed, expected outcome, possible limitations to study and alternative approaches.
3. It is highly recommended that a statistician be consulted during the design of the study. A thorough description of data analysis must be included in the methods section, including sample size calculations. For power analysis, describe how it was performed and reference the data used for assumptions in the analysis.
4. Applicants using client-owned animals must document that the institutional case load is adequate to provide the number of animals per year needed to complete the study as proposed.

VI. Timeline (maximum one page): Provide a detailed estimate of time to complete work.

VII. Itemized Budget with justification (maximum one page):

The final numbers on the budget page must match the amount requested on the cover page. Include a list of any other current sources of funding and/or related grants requested.

Applicant must provide an estimate on how much time each investigator will spend on the project, as well as their role. Indicate and justify a percent effort on this grant for all individuals, such as technicians, graduate students, etc. for whom funds are requested.

The Foundation does not fund salaries of investigators, major equipment expenditures, travel, publication or indirect costs. Salaries, supplies, and animal care costs not justified may be deleted from the budget.

VIII. Animal Involvement Justification:

1. Studies must meet stringent humane standards of care when animals are involved. Download the Winn Humane Use of Animals Guidelines (Please note: Revised March 2015) for additional information at www.winnfelinefoundation.org.
2. If applicable, provide a description of the animal care unit at the investigator's facility, including certifications held (such as IACUC guidelines), and plans for maintenance of animals during and after the study (maximum 1 page). Humane treatment of animals is of utmost importance to Winn Feline Foundation and will be reviewed closely.

IX. References (maximum 2 pages):

Include complete pertinent literature references. All references should include full citations including titles.

X. Curriculum Vitae (maximum 2 pages each): Provide for every primary investigator.

XI. Consent Forms and Questionnaires:

If applicable, studies requiring client consent or questionnaires must include the proposed consent form and questionnaires as examples



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PUBLICATIONS and PROGRESS REPORTS:

Investigators receiving a grant award are **REQUIRED** to credit Winn Feline Foundation in all publications arising from this research. Copies of all publications arising from this project should be submitted to the Foundation on or before the time of publication.

A progress report of the funded project is **REQUIRED** every January 1st following the receipt of the grant award until the final project report is submitted. Reports must be submitted on the Winn template, which will be provided. **Failure to submit progress/final reports will delay any possible future funding.**

Winn will require the acceptance of a written agreement to release funding.

NEW FELINE INVESTIGATOR GRANT AWARD AVAILABLE:

1) A New Feline Investigator Grant Award was established by Winn Feline Foundation in 2017.

One grant will be awarded for the maximum amount of \$25,000 with \$23,000 available for research and \$2,000 available for travel expenses to present the study results at a major veterinary conference.

2) A Feline Genomics New Investigator Grant Award (special emphasis- sponsored): Winn Feline Foundation, in collaboration with Wisdom Health, seeks to support the emerging field of feline genomics through the funding of a New Investigator whose research focus will enhance our understanding of feline genomics as it applies to feline health. The study of genomics has progressed exponentially in the last twenty years, from the study of single genes and their potential association with disease to a field that studies the function of genes and their interrelationships. Progress in this discipline has led to the growing awareness that many diseases are the result of complex associations between multiple genes and the influence of environmental factors. Complicating the perceived role of polygenic factors in disease is the understanding that non-coding DNA, formerly believed to be “junk DNA,” may be far more important and influential in health and patient outcomes than previously recognized. Competitive applicants will be new investigators focused on feline genomic research with application to domestic cats particularly in areas of basic science necessary to move the field forward broadly as it applies to feline health. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to genomic-based research that will drive advances in:

- Personalized medicine and the use of genomic data in clinical decision-making
- Pharmacogenetics and pharmacogenomics
- Genomic data interpretation

The maximum award amount of the Feline Genomics New Investigator Award will be \$25,000 (similar budget conditions apply).

Eligibility: Candidates for the two awards can be recently appointed (< 2 years) university research associates or assistant professors (or equivalent positions outside of the United States), post-doctoral fellows, or veterinary students in a DVM/PhD program at a college or school of veterinary medicine which currently applies for grants from Winn. Candidates should have an interest in pursuing a future career in feline health research. The candidates must be the primary principal investigator on the project and should select the application box for YES to apply for the New Feline Investigator Award on the 2021 Winn Grant cover sheet.

The guidelines related to types of health studies, format and progress reports/publications would apply to these awards in the same manner as other Winn grant awards. Winn will also require the acceptance of a written agreement to release funding for this award.